

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE Amphill Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you with my second Annual Report. As in previous years, the District will be divided into sub-districts, and I shall first deal with the total number of Deaths and the respective Death Rates of the sub-divisions. I shall then proceed with Births and Birth Rates.

Death Rates.—The total number of Deaths in the entire District in 1899, after allowances made for deaths in the Workhouse at Amphill and amongst those registered but not resident in this area, amounted to 195, and as the estimated population is 12,726, it gives a general Death Rate of 15·32, a rate which compares unfavourably with that of 1898, which was 13·35.

In a rural district like ours, where so many of the young and more vigorous members of the community leave us for the towns, the Death Rate is hardly a fair criterion of our condition of health.

Longevity is much more reliable, and that is chiefly noticeable in our case by the large number of deaths over 65, viz., 87 or nearly one half. Our Death Rate is therefore much better than it looks.

	Population.	No. of Deaths		Death Rate.		Zymotic Death Rate.		Phthisical Death Rate.		Infantile Mortality Rate	
		1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
AMPTHILL.....	5,671	80	102	14·1	17·98	1·41	2·64	·52	1·76	4·40	3·52
CRANFIELD	3,012	37	44	12·2	14·60	·33	·33	0·00	·66	1·99	1·99
SHILLINGTON	4,043	53	49	13·1	12·12	1·23	·74	0·00	·24	3·21	·74

In 1899 the Zymotic Death Rate of entire District was 1·49 as against 1·1 in 1898

„	Phthisical	„	„	1·02	„	0·39	„
„	Infantile Mortality	„	„	2·27	„	3·45	„

As the number of Deaths under 1 year of age was 29 and the Births 313, this shows that out of every 1,000 Births 92·6 died, a number which compares very favourably with that of the previous year, which was 157·1.

The following list shows the number of Deaths in each sub-district from Zymotic and Phthisical diseases :—

	Typhoid.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea & Dysentery.	Phthisis.
AMPTHILL.....		3	8	4	10
CRANFIELD				1	2
SHILLINGTON	1	1		1	1
	1	4	8	6	13

There have been in the whole District :

29 deaths in children under 12 months as against 44 in 1898.

18 „ between the ages of 1 and 5 years „ 7 „

9 „ „ 5 „ 15 „ „ 2 „

10 „ „ 15 „ 25 „ „ 5 „

42 „ „ 25 „ 65 „ „ 38 „

87 „ in persons over 65 years as against 74 in 1898.

The deaths from Cancer amount to 17, which is an increase on the last three years :—

	1897	1898	1899
Ampthill ...	10	8	5
Cranfield ...	3	3	5
Shillington ...	1	3	7
	<hr/> 14	<hr/> 14	<hr/> 17

The deaths from Influenza amount to 2 as against 5 last year :—

	1897	1898	1899
Ampthill ...	3	3	0
Cranfield ...	2	2	0
Shillington ...	1	0	2

NOTES ON TABLE B.

(See also Notes on back of Table A.)

NOTE 1. The present *Table B.* is concerned with population, births, and sickness (not with mortality) in the district or division to which the Table relates.

2. As stated in the heading of Col. (a), *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the new cases of sickness in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received, are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

3. *Comments on any unequal incidence of notifiable disease upon the several localities, and considerations as to the local incidence of Consumption and other prevalent diseases, should be made in the text of the Report.*

Feb. 22nd, 1900.

KILHAM ROBERTS,
Medical Officer of Health.



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(B)

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1899, in the Amphill Rural District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

[illegible]

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District. Yes.	Since when? <i>March, 1896.</i>	Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any other diseases that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly	State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated. <i>No Hospital in the district.</i>

Notes on Tables A and B.

- NOTE 1. *Medical Officers of Health of "Combined Districts" must make a separate Return for the District of each District Council.*
2. *Medical Officers of Health acting for a portion only of the District of a District Council should write, in the heading of the Table, the designation of the Division for which they act.*
3. *The words "Urban," "Rural," or "Metropolitan" must be inserted in the appropriate space in the heading according as the District is Urban or Rural, or is within the Metropolitan Area.*
4. *The "Localities" adopted for the purpose of these statistics should be areas of known population; such as parishes, groups of parishes, townships or wards.*

As stated at the head of the first column in each Table, *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the deaths in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

5. *The deaths which have to be classified in this Table (A), and summed up in the horizontal line of "Totals" are the whole of those registered as having actually occurred in the several localities comprised within the Division or District. But the registered number of deaths frequently requires correction before it can give an exact view of the mortality of a Division or District; and the two lowest horizontal lines are provided for the purpose of enabling Medical Officers of Health to indicate, to the best of their ability, what the extent of such corrections should be. Details concerning the corrective figures, e.g., the institutions that have been considered, or the particular localities to which corrections apply, may appear in the text of the report or in supplementary tables.*

Area and Population of the District
or Division to which this Return
relates.

Area in Acres **40,332.**

Population (last Census), **12,726.**

" { Estimated to } **12,726.**
Middle of 1899

Death Rates	{	General, 15.32	{ per 1,000 Population estimated to middle of 1899.
		Infant (under one year of age) 92.6	

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables A and B, attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

KILHAM ROBERTS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Feb. 22nd, 1900.



The deaths from diseases of the Respiratory Organs were 24 as against 15 last year.

Births and Birth Rate.—The total number of Births in the entire District is 313, which gives a rate of 24·5 per thousand of population.

The Births and Birth Rate of each sub-district are :—

	Number of Births.		Birth Rates.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
AMPTHILL	138	141	24·33	24·86
CRANFIELD	60	75	19·92	24·9
SHILLINGTON	82	97	20·28	23·99

The comparative freedom from the chief Zymotic diseases of 1898 has, I am sorry to say, not been maintained ; this has been chiefly due to outbreaks of Scarlatina at Cranfield, and Diphtheria at Lower Stondon. The former was of a very mild character, no deaths occurring.

In addition to the above there have been epidemics of Whooping Cough at Maulden, Millbrook and Clophill, necessitating in the latter two places the closure of the Schools.

Sporadic cases of Typhoid Fever and Scarlatina have occurred in the Ampthill and Shillington districts.

The following notifications under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act have been received :—

Ampthill	{	Diphtheria.....	6	Scarlatina.....	4	} 17
		Erysipelas.....	5	Typhoid	1	
		Puerperal	1			

Cranfield	{	Erysipelas.....	3	} 26	Shillington	{	Diphtheria.....	14	} 22
		Scarlatina	23				Erysipelas	3	
							Scarlatina	2	
							Typhoid.....	3	

I now mass the cases of entire District together and give the seasons of year in which they occurred :—

1st Three Months.	2nd Three Months.	3rd Three Months.	4th Three Months.
Diphtheria 1	Diphtheria 2	Diphtheria 14	Diphtheria 3
Erysipelas 5	Erysipelas 1	Erysipelas 1	Erysipelas 4
Scarlatina 2	Puerperal Fever 1	Scarlatina 20	Scarlatina 1
	Scarlet Fever 6	Typhoid 2	Typhoid 2
8	10	37	10

In all 65 as against 41 in the previous year.

In connection with Zymotic disease, a question has cropped up lately whether Schools should be closed during Epidemics, and as an alternative a frequent inspection of all the scholars has been suggested, and that cases of infectious disease should be sent home at once. The assumption is that an epidemic is thus nipped in the bud ; but there are certain diseases, such as whooping cough and measles, which are very infectious long before the complaint can be diagnosed, and therefore the school buildings and other scholars are infected, and the mischief is done which this method seeks to avoid. In order that the inspection should be effective, it is necessary for it to be done at least every alternate day and all the year round. In a scattered rural district like this, where there are a large number of Schools, it would necessitate the employment of several medical men, and in addition to the expense thus incurred, I am afraid the work of the Schools would be rather upset by the constant visits of a medical inspector, who would have to spend some considerable time there (whilst examining the scholars) if he did his work thoroughly. In a rural district its advantages are not sufficient in my mind to recommend its adoption.

The plan adopted here, and I believe in most rural districts, is for all known cases to be kept at home as well as all children from the same house. If the disease does not spread the Schools are kept open, but if it increases and the Schools are thought to be a factor in that increase, they are shut.

My recommendations are, that if an infected case has attended School up to the time of the disease showing itself, the School should be at once disinfected, as no doubt germs are left behind, and there is of course a great probability of other children getting it unless the above means are adopted. In addition I should recommend the schoolmaster to keep a strict eye on the children who sat next to the case, and send them home at once on the first appearance of illness.

I again include the Rainfall, as I think this is important, it being our only flusher of drains and stagnant ditches :—

Rainfall.

Jan. in.	Feb. in.	Mar. in.	Apl. in.	May in.	June in.	July in.	Aug. in.	Sept. in.	Oct. in.	Nov. in.	Dec. in.
2·225	1·545	·63	2·435	1·850	1·105	1·77	1·085	2·325	2·93	2·593	1·376

Total for the year ... 21·869 inches.

This, although an increase on 1898, which was 20·625, is more than 3 inches under the average. The above is taken at Shillington with a 5-inch gauge. Height above sea level, 182 feet. As the conformation of any part of the district is not such as to cause any great variation, I think this may be taken as typical of its entire area.

In regard to Water Supply, two new wells have been sunk at Shillington, and several others in the district have been cleaned out and repaired. Clophill and Haynes the same as last year.

The Sanitation of the District has made steady improvement, but nothing of a radical character has been done.

There is no definite system of refuse removal in any of the villages, but covered ashpits are strongly advocated for the cottages, and the cottagers are recommended to frequently empty them. An increased number of pail and earth closets are in use, and this of course prevents fæcal matter being left near houses for long periods in a putrescent state.

I am extremely glad you have adopted Regulations under the Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milkshops Order, 1885; but in order to enforce these Regulations it is absolutely necessary that an Inspector should be appointed.

Vaccination under the new Act has, I am glad to say, been a splendid success, in fact I may say in this District it has exceeded the hopes of the most sanguine. This I attribute in the first place to the operation being done at the house of the parents, and secondly the use of calf lymph. There is also another factor, viz., the knowledge that the Act will be enforced if not complied with.

I give you a table showing the difference between 1898 under the old Act and 1899 under the new.

	1898	1899		1898	1899		1898	1899
Amphill	16	108.	Cranfield	Nil	117.	Shillington	7	89

The total number in 1899 was 314 compared with 23 of the year previous.

After all notifiable infectious disease the houses have been disinfected free of charge with Formic Aldehyde Gas, instead of Sulphurous Acid as heretofore; the reason the former has been preferred is on account of its greater penetrative and germicidal powers.

I beg to draw your attention to the following requirements :—

- (1) Provision of Isolation Hospital accommodation. In regard to this, I think one place in the vicinity of Amphill would be sufficient for the Town and the Amphill and Woburn Rural Districts.
- (2) A Disinfector, preferably of a portable character—three, if placed in suitable situations would, I think, be sufficient for the entire county.
- (3) Adoption of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, viz., those parts applicable to rural districts.
- (4) Adoption of a series of Bye-laws.

In conclusion, I am glad to say increased vigilance has been exercised in regard to the enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act.

Acreage, 40,332. Census Population, 12,726.

Density of Population, 1 person to 3·16 acres.

	1893.	1897.	1898.	1899.
POPULATION, 12,726.				
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population..	23·9	23·95	·22	24·5
General Death Rate	12·86	14·34	13·35	15·32
Zymotic „ per 1,000	1·1	0·93	1·1	1·49
Phthisical „ „	0·7	0·93	0·39	1·02
Respiratory Diseases „	0·8	2·28	1·1	1·8
Deaths under one year per 1,000 Births	82·24	104·9	157·1	92·6
Deaths over 65, percentage of total Deaths	43·2	41·27	43·5	44·6

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KILHAM ROBERTS, M.O.H.

Feb. 22nd, 1900.

Amphill Rural District Council.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for 1899.

The following is a list of Nuisances and other matters dealt with during the year :—

1.	Defective Closets	33
2.	Defective and Insufficient Drains	30
3.	Defective and Insufficient Water Supply	16
4.	Dwellings in a Dilapidated state	12
5.	Wells Repaired and Cleansed	17
6.	Ditches Cleansed	4
7.	Cases of Overcrowding	1
8.	Houses Disinfected	35
9.	Schools Disinfected	2
10.	Certificates Granted for New Houses	5
11.	Defective Ashpits	3
12.	Accumulations of Offensive Matter	11
13.	Sewage Tanks and Ditches Cleansed	12
14.	Nuisances caused by Fowls	1
15.	Gipsy Encampments	1
Total		183

Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses are inspected every six months :—

Bakehouses Inspected	37
Ditto Cleansed and Repaired	28
Slaughterhouses Inspected	25
Ditto Cleansed and Repaired	20

LEONARD FOSTER,

Inspector.

January 30th, 1900.